

self and his notions more acceptable to them :
 this, in a
 government that has so much of freedom in it
 as ours, was
 more necessary than he was inclined to
 believe : his re-
 servedness grew on him, so that it disgusted
 most of those
 who served him. . . . He did not like
 contradiction, nor to
 have his actions censured : but he loved to
 employ and
 favour those who had the arts of complacence,
 yefc he did
 not love flatterers. . . . He loved the Dutch, and
 was much
 beloved among them ; but the ill returns he
 met from the
 English nation, their jealousies of him, and
 their perverse-
 ness towards him, had too much soured his
 mind, and had
 in a great measure alienated him from them,
 which he did
 not take care enough to conceal, though he saw
 the ill effects
 this had upon his business.... He was so apt to
 think that his
 ministers might grow insolent, if they should
 find that they
 had much credit with him, that he seemed to
 have made it a
 maxim, to let them often feel how little power
 they had,
 even in small matters. . . . I considered him as
 a person
 raised up by God to resist the power of France,
 and the
 progress of tyranny and persecution : the series
 of the five
 Princes of Orange, that was now ended in him,
 was the
 noblest succession of heroes that we find in any
 history.
 After all the abatements that may be allowed
 for his errors
 and faults, he ought still to be reckoned among
 the greatest
 princes that our history, or indeed that any
 other, can
 afford.¹

Apart from Burnet, Macaulay drew many '
 touches

from every kind of contemporary memoir. But he rightly attached the greatest importance to the letters of William which were then at his disposal, and relied very largely on William's correspondence with Bentinck and Heinsius.

William's letters to Bentinck are in the possession of Bentinck's descendant, the Duke of Portland. Transcripts of them, made for Sir James Mackintosh, were used by Macaulay and are now in the British Museum.² Extracts are

¹ Own Time, ii. 304-6.

² Add. MS. 34,514.